

Charitable Institutions

INFORMATION

~~800 2000 3~~

FOR

O V E R S E E R S,

COLLECTED FROM THE FIRST VOLUME OF THE

REPORTS OF THE SOCIETY

FOR

BETTERING THE CONDITION AND IN-

CREASING THE COMFORTS

OF THE POOR.

AND PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE SOCIETY.

LONDON:


PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY,

BY W. BULMER AND CO.

AND SOLD BY J. HATCHARD, 173, PICCADILLY;

ALSO BY BECKET, FALL-MALL; ROBSON, BOND STREET;
PAYNE, MEWS' GATE; RIVINGTON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-
YARD; EGERTON, WHITEHALL; CADELL AND DAVIES,
STRAND: AND VERNOR AND HOOD, POULTRY. ALSO BY
TODD, YORK; HAZARD, BATH; AKENHEAD AND SONS, NEW-
CASTLE; PENNINGTON, DURHAM; BROWNE, HULL; EAS-
TON, SALISBURY; TREWMAN, EXETER; CLARKE, MAN-
CHESTER; HOUGH, GLOUCESTER; AND LEE, AT LEWES.

1799.

 *A few Copies of the first Edition of Vol. I. of the Reports of the Society, to be had in Boards, price 6s. 6d.; or any of the Reports at 1s. each.—A cheap Edition, in 12 mo. is published of the first Volume, price 2s. and of the first Part of the second Volume, price 1s.*

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Of a spinning school at Oakham, in the county of Rutland. By the Earl of Winchilsea	3
Of a parish wind-mill on Barham Downs, in the county of Kent. By Thomas Bernard, Esq.	5
Of the manner and expence of making stewed ox's head for the poor. By Mrs. Shore, of Norton-Hall, Derbyshire	9
Of the expence and benefit of frequently white-washing the rooms of a poorhouse. By William Emm, Esq. Secretary to the Bishop of Durham	12
Of the benefit of the use of rice. By the Matron of the Foundling	16
From the Rev. Mr. Gilpin's account of the new poorhouse at Boldre, in Hampshire. By the Bishop of Durham	19
Of a parish dinner for poor children, at Epping. By Thomas Bernard, Esq.	27
Of a mode adopted in the parish of Hadham, in the county of Hertford, for supplying the poor with flour of the best quality, and at a reasonable rate. By the Rev. Dr. Hamilton	34
Charge to overseers of the Hundred of Stoke, in the county of Bucks. By Thomas Bernard, Esq.	38

INFORMATION, &c.

Of a spinning school at Oakham, in the county of Rutland. By the Earl of WINCHILSEA.

RULES FOR THE SPINNING SCHOOL AT OAKHAM, RUTLAND.

1st. All inhabitants of the parish to be admitted.
2d. No persons to receive relief from the parish upon account of their families, who refuse to send their children to the school : unless they can prove, to the satisfaction of the overseers, that they can employ them to more advantage elsewhere.

3d. They are to be instructed gratis in spinning jersey, and linen, and in knitting : those who choose it, in reading ; and those, who can bring work with them, in sewing.

4th. The hours of work to be from eight to one, and from two to seven ; from one to two, dinner and rest. No work after dinner on Saturdays.

5th. A dinner to be provided for those who choose to dine at the school on the working days ; for which they are to pay each sixpence per week.

6th. In case of illness, the dinner may be sent for to their homes.

7th. The portions, if the dinner is sent out, to be as follows :

One pint and half of peas porridge.

ditto ditto of rice milk.

ditto ditto of rice broth.

One pound and half of potatoe pudding.

Those, who dine at the school, to have as much

as they choose to eat, and a quarter of a pound of bread each ; except on the pudding and rice milk days, when no bread is allowed.

8th. The whole of the earnings to belong to the children.

OBSERVATIONS.

A spinning school had been established at Oakham, in 1787 : but, till this arrangement took place, the children used to go home to their dinner ; which was attended with great inconvenience in wet and bad weather, and with loss of time ; as, frequently, when the weather was very bad, they did not return after dinner ; and sometimes did not go at all.

In order to establish the present system, the dinners for the first fortnight were given gratis, and the parents invited to taste them ; after that, they were informed that the children of those who approved of the plan *might* dine there, upon paying *sixpence a week* ; and those, whose parents preferred their dining at home, *might* continue to do so. The whole of the parents approved much of their dining at the school ; and the whole number, which amounts to between sixty and seventy, dine there, and pay their money. They do more work in the week by these means, and get a much better dinner than they could at home. Several children come there, whose parents do not receive relief.

By purchasing the different articles wholesale, by the use of barley bread (which is customary at that place), and by means of a Rumford copper, the expence for the dinners and fuel has never exceeded the sixpence per head.

The peas porridge, and pudding, are taken from Count Rumford's book, with some alterations, which make them rather more expensive, but certainly better.

I conceive that the success, which has hitherto attended this plan, is owing to its having been left to the *option* of the parents, whether their children should dine there or not. 16th March, 1797.

Of a parish wind-mill on Barham Downs, in the county of Kent. By THOMAS BERNARD, Esq.

IN January, 1796, a parish windmill was erected by subscription on Barham Downs, very near the village of Barham. The subscribers were eight in number; the subscriptions £40. each. The whole cost of the mill (which began to work on the 5th of April, 1796, and contains two pair of stones, one for wheat, and one for other corn) was £336. : the expence of the scales and utensils of different kinds was £17. ; the whole together amounting to £353. being £33. more than the original sum subscribed. This surplus of expence was discharged out of the extra profits of the mill, that were received between the 5th of April, 1796, and the 1st of January, 1797.

By an agreement between the subscribers it was settled that (after the payment of the miller's wages, the repairs of the mill, and other necessary expences, together with interest at five per cent. on the subscriptions) half of the surplus of the profits should be set apart, as a fund towards discharging the monies advanced, until the same should be reduced to £150. ; the remainder of the surplus in

the mean time (and ultimately the whole of it) being applied for the benefit of the labouring industrious poor of the parish of Barham,* in such manner as the subscribers should think proper; it being their determined resolution not to appropriate any part of it to their own use.

The mill is already so far in profit, as to give a fair prospect of producing a fund, for discharging by degrees the greater part of the money originally subscribed, and for providing for the future expences of the repairs of the mill, which will necessarily increase as it grows older. The miller attends constantly every day: as well for the purpose of grinding corn in small quantities, by preference for the poor, as of grinding for any of the farmers or neighbours. The fixed price for grinding at the mill is fourpence a bushel, with an allowance of half a pound only for waste, which is found to be sufficient: whereas the neighbouring millers† used to charge

* I trust the proprietors will excuse my expressing a hope, that this surplus may be applied in giving aid and encouragement to those labourers whose industry and economy have enabled them to do without parochial relief; by furnishing the annual premium of a cow, a pig, or the fitting up of a cottage, as the means of enabling them to thrive, and of raising them above the condition of applying for relief under the poor's-rate.
9th Feb. 1798.

† The price for grinding, taken by millers in the neighbourhood of Canterbury, before this mill was set up, was 6d. a bushel: they have now reduced it to 3d.—When, indeed, the millers take toll, the amount of it is various; sometimes as high as a tenth, and sometimes as low as a sixteenth, or even a 20th: the average may be about a 14th. During the late scarcity, corn was in some parts of England, at one time, as high as a guinea a bushel; the toll on which would be one shilling and sixpence; but when it is recollected, that the miller's toll is always taken from the best of the meal and from the finer flour that is in the centre of the hopper, the value of that toll cannot be less than 2s. 6d. a

sixpence a bushel for grinding, with a deduction of one pound a bushel for waste.

There is a fourteen-shilling cloth, to dress the flour for those, who bring their own corn. People are sure of having their own corn returned to them, which is not generally the case in corn mills; and if they please, they may stay and see it ground, and take it away with them. A bushel of corn takes in grinding about ten minutes. The consequence of these regulations is that the neighbours bring their corn, by preference, to this mill to grind.

The meal is sold to the poor of the parish of Barham, and of the four adjoining parishes, for ready money only, at a rate which is fixed once a week, according to the average price of wheat at Canterbury on the preceding Saturday. In fixing the price, there is a profit reserved, of two shillings and eight-pence per quarter for grinding; the proprietors taking upon themselves the risk of the fluctuation of the market. This price has been, on an average, rather more than one shilling per bushel, or three halfpence a gallon cheaper than that of the neighbouring millers. It is sold to the poor at one halfpenny a gallon cheaper than the price, at which it is sold to the tradesmen and farmers: but no meal is sold at the mill except the *whole meal*; the object of which is to hold out a prevalent induce-

bushel. If, in addition to these circumstances, we advert to the fact, that, during the scarcity of wheat, some millers purchased at half price foreign and damaged corn, which they mixed with English wheat; we shall have reason to believe that *five shillings a bushel* on grinding wheat, is not more than may have been made, in some instances, during that period of scarcity.

9th Feb. 1798.

ment to make bread of the whole meal, without taking out the bran and coarse flour.

No meal is sold but for ready money : every one comes and fetches it away at his own expence. There is a general day for delivery of meal to the poor once a week. Upon that day a person attends from nine of the clock in the morning till twelve, on behalf of the subscribers, to see the delivery of the meal, and the payment of the money, and to cast up the books. The same person is employed to purchase the corn ; and great care is taken that no wheat shall be purchased, but what is of the very best quality : by which means the customers are sure of not having any musty or damaged wheat ; a most material circumstance to the poor, who are too frequently obliged to take bad meal from the common millers.—It may be right to observe that since the erection of this mill, the neighbouring millers have sold their flour much nearer to the price of the wheat than they did formerly.

104 OBSERVATIONS.

1st The conversion of many corn mills into cotton mills, and for other purposes of manufactures, has enabled the millers in many parts of England, to establish a monopoly in the most important article of life. How they have used the advantages, which they have derived from the number of corn mills being diminished, and how much the poor have suffered by it, is too well known, and has been too deeply and generally felt, to require any observation. By the preceding detail it appears, that it is in the power of the other classes of society, with very little trouble, and without any expence, to pro-

tect the poor against this very baneful monopoly ; and to rescue them from the hands of persons, who, to say the least, have not used their power with moderation. This is an object of very great importance, which may be immediately and effectually obtained, by the erection of parish mills similar to that on Barham Downs, for the establishment of which, the public is indebted to the philanthropy and spirit of Mr. Oxenden and the other subscribers.

Such mills, in country districts, would secure to the poor, at reduced and moderate prices, and of a good quality and honest measure, that which is to them the most material article of subsistence ; and would be the means of inducing people in general, instead of rejecting all except the finest flour, to use the *whole meal* ; thereby husbanding with more economy that necessary article of life, on the abundance of which so much of their comfort depends.

Of the manner and expence of making stewed ox's head for the poor. By Mrs. SHORE of Norton-Hall, Derbyshire.

ONE of the members of the society having requested the particulars of the ox-head stew, which is given away at Norton-Hall, I have prepared the following account.—The whole is divided into 52 messes ; each mess containing a piece of meat, a piece of fat, and a quart of soup. The distribution of it has been continued since October, 1792, once a week, and sometimes oftener, from October to May. The poor people receive it very

thankfully, and generally reserve part of the mess for the second day.

The manner of preparing it is as follows.—Wash the ox's head *very clean and well*, and then put it into thirteen gallons of water; add a peck and a half of pared potatoes, a quartern of turnips, half a quartern of onions, a few carrots, a handful of pot-herbs, and the liquor of any boiled meat of the family, in which no vegetable has been boiled; thicken it with two quarts of oatmeal, and add pepper and salt to your taste:—set it to stew with a gentle fire, early in the afternoon, allowing as little evaporation as may be, and not skimming off the fat; but leaving the whole to stew gently over the fire, which should be renewed and made up at night. Make a small fire under the boiler at seven o'clock in the morning, and keep adding as much water as will make up the waste by evaporation, keeping it gently stewing till noon, when it will be ready to serve for dinner.

The whole is then to be divided into 52 messes; each containing (by a previous division of the meat and fat) a piece of meat and fat, and a quart of savoury nourishing soup.

The expence of the materials in the northern counties, where it has been tried, may be thus stated:

	s.	d.
ox's head	1	6
a peck and a half of potatoes	0	7½
onions, turnips, &c.	0	4½
	2	6

This amounts, exclusive of fuel and trouble, to rather more than a halfpenny for each mess, or

not quite two-pence halfpenny a gallon ; but, in the dearer parts of England, the articles being purchased by retail, the mess may cost as much as three farthings or a penny.

The beef and other bones, and crusts of bread, of the family may be added to the stew ; and will improve the soup, without any additional expence.

OBSERVATIONS.

The above is submitted to the consideration of those house-keepers, who have not yet adopted a similar charity, as a cheap and useful mode of relieving their poor neighbours, and of gradually teaching them a better system of diet, than they at present possess. The sum of 2*s.* 6*d.* a week for seven months (amounting to £. 3. 15*s.* a year) in the cheap parts of England, and a few shillings more in the others, is the expence of a charity, which may retain on its lists fifty-two poor persons, and supply them with the comforts of two meals a week.

This receipt was tried by a gentleman, to whom I gave a copy of it, in September last, at Auckland workhouse ; and was, as I understand, extremely liked by the poor. Tho the expence was very small, yet the quantity produced being a great deal more than the people of the workhouse could use, the cottagers near the workhouse were desired to send for messes of it ; and had, in consequence, the benefit of a plenteous and unexpected meal. It is now inserted in their table of diet, to be made once a week for the benefit of the poor, both in and out of the workhouse.—This dish requires more attention, and more conveniences for cookery,

than are to be found in every cottage. It would be a good thing if a part of every workhouse was converted into a parochial cook's shop, to furnish the poor, who receive no other relief, with cheap and nourishing dishes, which they have neither the means, skill, or inclination to make.

29th Oct. 1797.

Of the expence and benefit of frequently white-washing the rooms of a poorhouse. By WM. EMM, Esq. Secretary to the BISHOP OF DURHAM.

THE poorhouse at Bishop Auckland has been, during the preceding summer, white-washed every six weeks. The method of preparing the lime, (which is rock or stone lime from Coxhoe, about ten miles from Auckland, and costs, including carriage, four-pence a bushel) is as follows:—a large tub is procured to slake it in, and this is filled with lime nearly to the top, cold water being poured upon it by degrees, and it being stirred with a stick that is broad at one end, until the tub is filled with lime: when the lime and water are well incorporated, and of the consistence of mud, it is to be taken out of the tub with a wooden scoop, and strained through a hair or fine wire sieve into another vessel, where it settles to the bottom in a solid mass of white-wash. There will be some water at the top, not imbibed by the lime; this should be skimmed off. It is then to be mixed with cold water, till it is of the consistence of thin paint, being stirred occasionally while it is using. In this

state it is laid on with a whitening brush by the man and his wife who have the care of the house.

The quantity used for white-washing the fifteen rooms at Auckland poorhouse, is half a bushel, which costs two-pence; the expence of the four white-washings being, in the whole, not quite EIGHT-PENCE A YEAR. This trifling expenditure has produced a very great benefit to the poor in the workhouse, to those who visit it, and indeed to the parish in general, that is not easily to be calculated.—I have the pleasure of being able to say, that there is neither disease nor vermin in our poorhouse at present; but that the inhabitants are very comfortable and happy.

OBSERVATIONS.

It would be well for the inhabitants of cottages, as well as poorhouses, if the custom of very frequently white-washing them were prevalent throughout the kingdom. Clean white-washed walls not only contribute to prevent the existence of vermin, but induce habits of cleanliness in those who reside within them. It was observed by the late Mr. Howard, in his work on Lazarettos, that in the cottages on his estate in Bedfordshire, which had been made comfortable, “*and white-washed both within and without*, the very same families, “*which were before slovenly and dirty*, had upon “*this change of habitation, become neat in their persons, their houses, and their gardens.*”

When it is generally known that the four white-washings of Auckland poorhouse have produced the most beneficial effects, and have cost only a little trouble, and *the sum of eight-pence a year*, I

flatter myself that there will be very few poor-houses in England, * which will not be frequently white-washed.—The price and quality of lime is very different in different parts of the kingdom. In

* The penitentiary house in Cold-Bath Fields was white-washed in 1796. The charge for the work was fairly made, according to the ordinary course of trade, and amounted to *one hundred and one pounds*. In 1797 it was white-washed again; the materials were bought, and a prisoner in the house employed in the work: which, as far as I am a judge, was extremely well done: the expence of the materials was £1. 7s. 6d.; the donation to the man for his trouble £2. 12s. 6d.; in all **FOUR POUNDS**.—In the Foundling hospital, I have tried the experiment of white-washing some of the rooms. The greater kitchen is 34 feet by 21, and 12 high; and the lesser kitchen, 21 feet by 17; both of them arched, and containing a great deal of extra work: the materials, for white-washing both of them twice, cost 3s. Of the girls' dining-room over it, being 102 feet long by 24 feet wide, and 12 feet high; the expence of the materials, for white-washing the ceiling and cornice, and colouring of a straw colour that part of the sides of the room which was stucco, was 4s. 10d.; the workmanship 5s. The two wards above this floor are, one of them 129 feet long by 24 feet wide, and 12 feet high, and the other 111 feet long by 18 wide, and 12 feet high; all plain wall, without dado or surbase: the expence of white-washing the cielings and cornice of both of these, and colouring the sides of the rooms, was for the materials 16s.; for the workmanship 24s. In both instances size was used; which is included in the account, and was necessary, because the walls were not new plastered walls, but had been so white-washed or coloured before.—When it is known at how small a price the benefit of white-washing may be attained in *poorhouses*, and other public buildings, I trust the *conductors of them will take care that they do not want those means of preventing vermin, filth, and infection among them*.—No one is more desirous of giving tradesmen their fair and liberal profits than I am; but, where the excessive amount of their customary charge prevents a great advantage being received by the great mass of our fellow-subjects, I cannot estimate the extra profits of a few against the welfare of the many.—It may deserve inquiry whether, in poorhouses and other public buildings, contracts might not be annually made, for white-washing the whole *at a very moderate price*, once or twice every summer. B. 15th Feb. 1798.

London, and in some other places, it is as high as a shilling a bushel, and the lime chiefly in use is chalk lime, which does not answer so well as stone lime. The difficulty and expence, however, of obtaining the best stone lime, for this purpose, in any part of the kingdom, must be too inconsiderable to prevent its general use, if most approved of. In the neighbourhood of Manchester, a horse load of lime, which is sufficient to white-wash about a dozen cottages, costs fourteen-pence; which for each cottage would be two-pence halfpenny a year, supposing them regularly white-washed in spring and autumn. In some places the expence may be increased, perhaps as high as a shilling a cottage; but, as a general average for each cottage, two-pence or three-pence a year, expended by the landlord or the parish, in supplying the cottager with the materials for white-washing his cottage, would wonderfully contribute to the cleanliness and health of the poor throughout the kingdom.

If the lime-wash is prepared with lime already slaked, it may, in many instances, require size to be mixed with it: but if the *quick lime* is used, and in the metropolis, and in most towns, it may be obtained at all times in the smallest quantities, it will not be necessary to mix size with it; and the good effects of the white-washing in destroying vermin and removing infection will be much increased. The sooner, indeed, the lime is used after it is slaked, the better; especially if there is any apprehension of infection in the house. In that case, it is proper that the walls should be frequently washed with quick lime, fresh slaked in water, and put on

while it continues bubbling and hot, as is the practice of the House of Recovery at Manchester.

I suppose the master of the poorhouse to do the work himself. If a workman is employed to put it on, the additional expence would be about 6*d.* a room, which for the fifteen rooms would be 7*s.* 6*d.* a time, or £1. 10*s.* a year.—If indeed the overseer's brother or nephew, is to be employed in the *job* by the yard, the increase of expence would be very considerable; and might, instead of eightpence a year, amount to an annual expenditure of several pounds, and the cost prove almost equal to the benefit of the work being done.

31st Oct. 1797.

Of the benefit of the use of rice. By the Matron of the Foundling.

DURING the scarcity of wheat in July, 1795, one of the measures adopted at the Foundling Hospital, with a view of lessening the consumption of flour, was the substitution of rice puddings for those of flour; which, by the table of diet, were used for the children's dinner twice a week. The flour puddings, for each day, had taken about 168 lb. weight of flour; the rice puddings, substituted in their place, required only 21 lb. of rice, to make the same quantity of pudding; the result of the experiment being that, in a baked pudding made with milk, one pound of rice will go very nearly as far as eight pounds of flour.

The use of the puddings have ever since been continued in the Hospital, with this variation, that

the
weig
nues
used
sent
galle
rage
suffi

T
abou
expe
five
18 g
170
mor
the
was
savin
cum
bein
near

*
of th
ding
sever
the s
Weig
3
24 lb
6 lb

Tota
Ave

Ave
+
2*d.* a
half

the quantity of rice has been increased to 24 lb. weight for each day's dinner; and it now continues the substitute for near 168 lb. of flour before used: the ingredients in the rice puddings at present, being 24 lb. of rice, 6 lb. of treacle, and 18 gallons of milk; and the produce, upon an average,* 180 lb. of good substantial pudding; a very sufficient dinner for the 170 persons who dine on it.

The milk is the better kind of London milk; about equal to good skim-milk in the country. The expence of the dinner is as follows:—24 lb. of rice, five shillings; 6 lb. of treacle, two shillings; and 18 gallons of milk, twelve shillings;† the total for 170 persons, being nineteen shillings, or rather more than five farthings per head.—The saving to the Hospital, by this use of rice during the year, was something more than £200.; and the national saving in the consumption of flour, from that circumstance only, during the same period of scarcity, being one year ending July 1796, appears to be nearly 17,472 lb. weight of flour.

* In order to ascertain correctly the comparative weight of the materials in their liquid state, with that of the pudding after its baked, the weight has been carefully taken several times. The amount has not always been *precisely* the same, but the average is nearly as follows:

Weight of 18 gallons of milk, being about 1 lb.	
3 ounces the pint	171 lb.
24 lb. of rice	24 lb.
6 lb. of treacle	6 lb.
<hr/>	
Total of the ingredients	201 lb.
Average weight of the rice pudding in a solid state	180 lb.
<hr/>	

Average waste in dressing	21 lb.
---------------------------	--------

† Where skim-milk, as in the country, may be had at 2d. a gallon, the price of this dinner would hardly exceed a halfpenny a head.

OBSERVATIONS.

From this account it will appear, how much benefit, as well national as individual, may be derived from the general use of rice. There is hardly any way in which it can be stewed down, either with bacon and seasoning, or with meat, or with cheese, in which it will not make a cheap, pleasant, and nutritious dish: and it is particularly proper for, and palatable to, the aged, the infirm, and the young, who compose the greater part of the inhabitants of a poorhouse.

Rice contains a great deal of nutriment in a small compass, and does not pass so quickly off the stomach, as some other substitutes for wheat flour do. It is a good ingredient in bread. Boil a quarter of a pound of rice till it is quite soft: then put it on the back part of a sieve to drain it; and, when it is cold, mix it with three quarters of a pound of flour, a tea-cupful of yeast, a tea-cupful of milk, and a small table-spoonful of salt. Let it stand for three hours: then knead it up; and roll it in about a handful of flour, so as to make the outside dry enough to put into the oven. About an hour and a quarter will bake it; and it will produce one pound fourteen ounces of very good white bread. It should not be eaten till it is two days old.

It is to be observed that the Carolina rice bakes well without any preparation; but that the East India rice, though adapted for boiling or stewing, does not in general answer for baking, without being previously prepared, by soaking for a day or two in cold water.—That the increase in bulk and weight is not entirely owing to the milk, may be

proved by boiling a quarter of a pound of plain rice, in a bag tied so loose as to be capable of holding five times the quantity. It will produce above a pound of solid rice pudding. But this is only to be observed of rice that is not ground; if it be ground, the produce is not so great. 25th Nov. 1797.

From the Rev. Mr. Gilpin's account of the new poor-house at Boldre, in Hampshire. By the BISHOP of DURHAM.

THE old poor-house of Boldre being a wretched place, and having been managed at a great expence, it was determined at a vestry, held in the year 1792, to build a new one on a better site: to put in a respectable master and mistress; and to give the overlooking of it to a monthly committee of the gentlemen and farmers of the parish.

Accordingly they borrowed the sum of £800. and bought a piece of ground, about two acres and an half; elevated, dry, and airy; here they erected the house, at a little distance from the road; and yet near enough to be under the constant eye of observation. It is built substantially of brick; single, that the air may have a free passage through it, and extending about 82 feet in front, and 20 in breadth. These dimensions give an excellent work-room on the right, as you enter; and, on the left, a kitchen and back kitchen: the master's room, which is also the committee room, about 18 feet by 14, occupies the centre, and has a window on one side, inspecting the work-room; and another, on the opposite side, inspecting the kitchen. Above

stairs, the sleeping chambers are separated nearly as those are below ; only, as there are commonly more women and children in a poor-house than men, a room at the end of the men's apartment is taken off for a sick room, with a separate staircase. Over the chambers are excellent garrets ; behind the kitchen part of the house, are the pantries and other conveniences, among which is a store-room 30 feet long.

The ground between the house and the road, which is a falling space of about 60 yards, is divided, first into a dry convenient play yard for the children ; and the remainder, about half an acre, running down to the road, is a garden ; the larger garden, which is an acre, lies behind the house.

The house being finished, * and sufficiently dry, the inhabitants of the old house, consisting of 9 or 10 men and women, and between 20 and 30 children, were brought into it, on the 19th of May, 1793 ; and the whole put under the care of Mr. and Mrs. Salter, who are both of them well acquainted with the whole business of spinning and weaving. He has set up a couple of looms, and a number of spinning wheels, and generally presides over this part of the business himself ; Mrs. Salter attending to the economy and management of the house. The inhabitants are all employed according to their capacities ; some of the old women in cooking, mending, and washing ; the old men in the garden ; the children, and some of the women, in spin-

* The whole expence was nearly as follows : price of the four acres of ground, including two gardens and a close, £250. ; of the buildings £1000. and of furniture, &c. &c. £350. : in all £1600. 5th April, 1798.

ning and weaving ; children even of four or five years of age are employed, and earn about a penny a day. In summer, they come into the work-room at six ; in winter, as soon as it is light. At breakfast they have an hour's respite, and the same at dinner. They have all tasks ; but so easy, that if they work hard, they can finish them by two in the afternoon ; and, without any exertion, by six.

Their table of diet is as follows :—on Sunday, meat, with plenty of vegetables and bread ; the allowance of which is four ounces for grown persons, and three for children ; on Monday, the remains of Sunday's dinner warmed with vegetables and bread ; on Tuesday, each grown person has a pound of pudding, and the children three quarters of a pound ; on Wednesday, the same as on Sunday ; on Thursday the same as on Monday ; on Friday, ox-head stew with vegetables and bread ; on Saturday, a clearance is made of all the remains in the house ; and, if they fall short, the deficiency is made up with bread and cheese. For breakfast, beef broth, or milk porridge and bread are provided ; except for a few old women, who, having been in the habit of drinking tea all their lifetime, are allowed that indulgence, on account of their good behaviour. At supper, the regular meal is six ounces of bread, and an ounce of cheese for every grown person ; and for children four ounces of bread, and three quarters of an ounce of cheese ; this is sometimes varied with potatoes, which the children like better. The children, including all under the age of 15 years, sit at one table, and the grown persons at another. Every thing is good in

its kind ; the children seldom eat up all that is provided, but the rest of it is fried up again the next day among the remains. During the late scarcity of bread-corn, Mrs. Salter used a less proportion of wheat, and a larger of potatoes, particularly for supper ; and during the winter of the year 1795, she boiled potatoes and onions, and mixing them well together, fried them with a little lard ; the people were in general fonder of this dish than of their usual meal.

Four bushels and a half of malt are allowed each month for beer. I must add, that the master and mistress generally fare as the family does, tho it is not required by the committee.

The clothing of the poor is equally good ; every one has a new suit for Sunday, generally spun and woven in the house. It is carefully hung up at night, and the old clothes produced for the week.

Thus the poor are well lodged, well fed, and well clothed ; and yet (on deducting their earnings), at *less than half the expence* * that they cost the parish before ; being about nine-pence a head weekly ; whereas in the old house, with continual complaint, the allowance was double that ; tho provisions, at that time, were much cheaper than they are now.

In the article of clothing, much more is saved.

* The average weekly expence for the preceding year, taken from Mr. Salter's book, is as follows: s. d.

Average expence of diet per week for each individual, exclusive of the produce of the garden,	1	8
Average produce of each individual's labour for sale, exclusive of work in the garden, about the house, &c. &c.	0	11

Average cost of each individual per week	9
--	---

5th April, 1798.

Tho the poor are now so decently clad, yet, by care and management, the whole expence of the clothing in the year 1795, including shoes, amounted only to £17. 6s. 8d.; whereas the expence of clothing the poor in the old house, did not amount to less, one year with another, than £70. annually. In one year it reached £90.; for as no care was taken to keep the clothes in repair, nor any distinction made between old and new, they were always in rags, and yet always craving for new clothes.

Another article of saving is in the health of the poor; arising from the airiness and cleanliness of the present house, the good clothing, the wholesomeness and plenty of provisions, and from the care that is taken to keep the family clean. No epidemical, nor indeed any disorder, has appeared among them, since the new house has been opened.

By this alteration in the management of the house, a saving in the poor's-rates of the parish was made in the year 1795, of £157. 1s. 6d. notwithstanding the then advanced price of provisions and the variety of expences incident to a new establishment; and the average diminution in the rates, from Easter 1793 to the present time, has been £164. a year. The gardens belonging to the house are in high cultivation, and bear such quantities of potatoes and cabbages, the chief vegetables used in the family, that in general they are abundantly supplied. During the scarcity of the year 1795, they were obliged, indeed, to purchase potatoes.

But nothing is so delightful in the institution, as the cheerfulness with which every thing is conducted. The old women, who behave well, have

their little indulgences of tea and snuff; and the men, of tobacco. The childrens' tasks are made pleasing to them, by little gratuities out of their earnings. The master has the art of turning even their play hours to use, and yet making them more happy, * than if they were left to themselves.

Punishment in Boldre workhouse is rare and gentle; and consists chiefly in confining the delinquent in a room by himself, and abridging him of a meal: if, however, the master is under the necessity of correcting a boy corporally, the punishment is always inflicted in the presence of some respectable person.—For devotion and religious instruction, the family assembles in the kitchen, every morning when the bell rings for breakfast. The master reads, and generally explains, some easy and practical part of the New Testament; after which they all join in prayer. On Sunday morning and evening, these exercises are enlarged, and accompanied with singing hymns, in which all the children join. They regularly attend church on

* The brevity of these reports does not allow me to enter into the detail of Mr. Salter's management of the children. The eagerness with which they perform their tasks early, in hopes of being of a party *entrusted* with a letter, or *some commission of importance*, to a distant part of the parish, and indeed every part of Mr. Gilpin's detail, would afford satisfaction and information to the reader. It is a book that should be read by every master of a parish workhouse, and by every person concerned in the management of the poor. At the request of the committee Mr. Gilpin has permitted it, with some additions, to be reprinted for publication. It is sold by Messieurs Cadell and Davies, in the Strand, at the price of 3s. a dozen, or 3d. each: and is recommended to those, who interest themselves in the welfare of the poor, as a proper book to be given to overseers of the poor, and to masters of workhouses.

10th May, 1798.

Sundays: and it is a pleasing sight to see so many well clothed figures, happy faces, and healthy countenances issuing from a parish workhouse. In the afternoon, on Sunday, the children attend the school, where they are catechized with the other children of the neighbourhood: the old people also attend with them.

OBSERVATIONS.

The advantages of a well regulated poor-house consist in the superior comfort of the aged, the education of the young, the reform of the dissolute, and the diminution of poor's-rates. All these benefits have attended the new regulation of the poor-house at Boldre; so that a happy and useful society has been thereby formed out of the very dregs of the parish. The old people having all their wants supplied, and their wishes attended to, feel themselves more comfortable than they ever did before; and are glad to render cheerfully, in return, what little services they can: the children, * bred to industry and Christian virtue, promise to become

* It should be observed that, in Boldre workhouse, the children are kept separate and distinct from the adults; and that Mr. Gilpin has founded a school of industry and education, that provides for a great many of the children of the poor in that parish. Nothing less than such circumstances, with very good management, could render a poor-house, as at Boldre, a fit residence for children. The common occurrences of a parish will make it necessary to receive into a poor-house those, whom idleness and vice have made very improper examples for youth; and children in workhouses are generally the subject of uneasiness and unpleasantness to the aged poor, who are too frequently the butt and sport of the thoughtless and uneducated little creatures which are to be found in most poor-houses. If all of them, above seven years of age, were to be removed from the workhouse to some cottage, and there boarded, as in a parish school, at a certain sum (the mistress having the

useful members of society ; and the penitence and good conduct of some persons in the house, who, for want of education and early good habits, had been involved in idleness and profligacy, do infinite credit to the institution. I have only to add, that the poor's-rate has been reduced from £654. 12s. to £490.* a year, at the same time that the comfort and happiness, the industry, and the moral and religious habits of the poor, and in its consequences of the whole parish, have been increased, with a reasonable confidence of still greater improvement

benefit of their work) they would be more cheaply kept, and better educated ; a parochial school might thereby be provided, and a deserving family supported ; they would also get out at an earlier age, and into better services, than they do now ; the objection to taking children into any family, out of a poor-house, being general, and almost insurmountable. —I am persuaded that a workhouse, if well conducted, might be made as comfortable a retreat to the aged poor, who have no domestic connections, as any charitable foundation whatever ; and that, at less than the present expence. B. 7th April, 1798.

* Since the publication of the extract respecting Boldre workhouse, I have had the pleasure of visiting it, and should have been able to have confirmed, by my own testimony, the correctness of the facts stated, if it had not been wholly unnecessary. —The net expences of the preceding year, ending the 25th of March, 1798, are only £451. 1s. 2d. Instead of four rates, which have been usually collected, only three will be wanted this year ; and it is expected that, in future, two rates and a half will be sufficient. —Mr. Salter has just laid before the parish the accounts of the last five years, in which he has had the management of Boldre workhouse. During that period (while the increased price of provisions and other circumstances have enhanced the rates throughout the kingdom) there has been a saving to the parish of Boldre, that has exceeded all expectation. —The clothes, provisions, and cash in hand at Easter amounted to £181. 17s. 6d. There has been expended in stock, furniture, and permanent improvement and accommodation, during that period, £800. ; and yet the amount of the rates during those five years is less by

and saving to the parish, by its effects and example on the rising generation.

10th March, 1798.

Of a parish dinner for poor children, at Epping. By
THOMAS BERNARD, Esq.

AT Epping, in the county of Essex, where there is a school of industry for the employment of children, an ordinary was, on the recommendation of Mr. Conyers, opened in October last; and a general dinner has been provided on week days, for any children of that place whose parents desire it, on the following terms.

The price of the ordinary is six-pence a week for each child: they dine at table in a regular manner at one o'clock, in a room which adjoins to, but is unconnected with, the rooms of the workhouse; and which, during the rest of the day, has been used as a spinning school. Grace is regularly and decently said before and after dinner; and a voluntary expression of thanks and obligation to the mistress, for the good dinner she has provided them, generally precedes their quitting the room. Their table of diet is, on Mondays, Wednesdays,

£338. 8s. 8d. than that of the preceding five years. The account stands thus:

	£.	s.	d.
Cash, &c. in hand	181	17	6
Stock, furniture, improvements, &c.	800	0	0
Diminution in amount of rates	338	8	8

Total saving in five years 1320 6 2

At the same time the comforts of the poor have been much increased, and their moral and religious habits greatly improved. B. 1st May, 1798.

and Fridays, baked rice pudding; on Tuesday and Saturday beef stew and soup; and on Thursday pease soup. They are allowed to eat as much as they please; and their healthy countenances and decent behaviour evidence the plenty and comfort of their meal. The same dinner is also given, in another room, to the parish children and the other persons in the poor-house. The number of those who partook of it, in the week, from the 12th to the 17th of the preceding month of February, was 77; the expence of that week's dinner for the materials merely and their bread (but without reckoning for dressing and attendance) being £1. 12s. 1¼d. which is less than a penny a head each day.

A particular account of this dinner may be useful; as it will prove that what is provided for them is good in quality, and sufficient in quantity; and as it will serve to explain to others, how they may, *with some attention and very little expence*, contribute greatly to the comfort, the health, and the good habits of the children in their own neighbourhoods.

The following is an account of the week's fare of 77 persons, from Monday the 12th to Saturday the 17th of February, 1798, both days inclusive, with the expence of each article.

MONDAY. <i>Baked rice pudding.</i>		s. d.	
20lb. and a half of rice	-	2	6½
3lb. of suet	- -	1	6
6 gallons milk	- -	1	3
Salt and allspice	- -	2	¼
			s. d.
		5	6

N. B. The rice is soaked in the milk the night before baking, and produces

PARISH DINNER AT EPPING.

29

Brought forward - £. s. d.
5 6
with the other materials about 80lb.
weight of pudding.

TUESDAY. *Beef stew and soup.* s. d.
Ox's cheek - - 1 6
2 quarts of Scotch barley - 4½
3 quarts of pease - - 10½
1 quart of oatmeal - - 2½
1 peck of potatoes - - 3
Pepper, salt, and allspice - 6½
3 8½

WEDNESDAY. *Baked rice pudding,*
as on Monday - - - 5 6

THURSDAY. *Pease soup.*
4lb. of pork - - 1 8
6 quarts of pease - 1 8½
2 quarts of oatmeal - 4½
Pepper, salt, and allspice - 6½
4 3½
5 6

FRIDAY. *Baked rice pudding,* as before

SATURDAY. *Beef stew and soup.*

5 lb. and a half of beef - 2 3½
2 quarts of pease - - 7½
2 quarts of Scotch barley - 4½
Pepper, salt, and allspice - 6½
3 9½
1 0

Onions, mint, and carrots for the week

A quarter of a pound of bread allowed

on each of the three soup days, being

58 lb. a week - - - 4 10

Six days dinners for 77 persons - 1 14 1½

The children are generally those whose behaviour is approved, and who are paid for by the

week ; but any others, in cleanly and decent order, are allowed to dine at the same rate, when there is room. In case of sickness they may send for their dinners home.—The common labourers find they can maintain their children in this manner much better, and a great deal cheaper, than in the usual way of leaving them to consume at home a great deal of white bread, with very little comfort ; for example, a labourer who has four children finds that, by appropriating 2s. a week out of his earnings, all his four children have a plentiful, regular, and decent meal, six days in the week ; with twice the benefit to them, that they could have possibly derived from 2s. worth of white bread, eaten in the usual, solitary, uncivilized, and comfortless manner.

The situation of Epping, a large market town, with a surrounding forest the scene and object of petty thefts, and a public road through it, was not very favourable to the industry and regular habits of the poor ; nor was their usual dinner of a hunch of bread, part to be swallowed with a little water as they went along (the other part being most frequently thrown away) conducive either to their health, or to habits of economy. It is therefore a most pleasing circumstance to state, that, within one month after this dinner had been regularly provided at Epping, the appearance and manners of the poor children there were totally altered. Their sallow countenances had acquired a healthful complexion and tone, from the daily and regular supply of a plentiful meal ; and their manners, by the habits of an orderly table regularly served and attended, were improved and meliorated. To those,

who had been confined by illness, this dinner has proved of particular service ; as it has afforded them the means of re-establishment in a state of convalescence ; a period, when the poor are subject to great disadvantages, and are frequently a long time recovering their health and strength, because they are not provided with regular and nourishing food. — Four months have now passed since the children at Epping have been thus assembled once a day, at a decent and civilized table. I have attended it to-day, and with very great satisfaction have beheld the decency, the cheerfulness, and the general neatness of all the members of this little society ; and, being able to add my own testimony to the information I have received, I can say, that such effects appear to have been already produced on the health and good order of these little children, as must be extremely gratifying to every one, who interests himself in the welfare of his fellow creatures.

One consequence of this establishment has been, that several labourers, who have large families, and are industrious and deserving, have found themselves exonerated of a great part of the maintenance of their children by their richer neighbours ; who each take some of these little ones, in their turn, under protection, and subscribe for them to the public dinner. This contributes to increase that mutual good will and connection, which *ought* to subsist between the rich and the poor ; and makes the one mindful of his duty, and the other satisfied with his condition.

OBSERVATIONS.

The benefits of this establishment are many and various. It converts benevolence to better purposes, and into better channels than those through which it commonly flows; it brings the children of the poor into notice, teaching them regular habits, and the desire of profiting by their own industry; and it not only supplies the persons in the workhouse, but several poor families that are out of it, with sufficient food, comfortably, and at a very cheap rate. Where a labourer requires relief out of the house, the overseer, if he sees cause, directs messes of the parish dinner, proportionate to the family, to be sent to his house; and from fifteen to twenty indigent families, are supplied in this manner with a good meal at home every day. This affords much more effectual relief, and at less expence to the parish, than the little pittance of money, which is usually given, and which they have not means to make an advantageous use of. The poor, who are in the workhouse, are fed from the same kitchen, but dine in a separate and distant part of the house; I except those who are out on farmers' work, and who take their luncheon of bread and cheese with them; reserving, what is both gratifying and salutary to them, their right to the same hot meal for supper, as the others have had at dinner. There are at present 17 children, 5 old people, and 23 of middle age, in all 45 persons in the poor-house. I have had the pleasure of seeing them also at their dinner to-day, and I thought they had as much appearance of comfort, as could be expected for the residents of a workhouse; who

are generally persons suffering under some infirmity of mind or body, and are without prospect of improving their condition.

It is a melancholy truth, and the concealment will prevent the correction of the evil, that the poor of England, in a country of plenty, are not properly fed. For the growth of youth, and for the support of labour, in our northern climate, the stomach requires to be replenished at stated times; and with something different from bread and indiffent beer, or water; a diet, which is now become a great deal too general, and is as little favourable to economy as to health. The misfortune arises partly from themselves, as far as it is founded in prejudice, and in ignorance of their own interest; but, if it is in the power of the other classes of society to correct the evil, and, by gradual and gentle means, to give them a better and more wholesome system of food, the *fault*, I will venture to say the *crime*, is theirs, who leave an important act undone, which it is their duty, and in their power, to do. The example of what has been effected by Mr. Conyers at Epping, and by Lord Winchilsea at Oakham, is imitable and applicable throughout every part of the kingdom. The expence is trivial, the trouble inconsiderable: and, if it were generally adopted, the rising generation would carry with them into life more regular habits, and more vigorous health, and better stamina, than do now, in general, belong to the lower classes of society. I therefore conclude, with earnestly recommending it to the public, as the object of example and imitation.

3d March, 1798.

Of a mode adopted in the parish of Hadham in the county of Hertford, for supplying the poor with flour of the best quality, and at a reasonable rate.
By the Rev. Dr. HAMILTON.

DURING the whole of last autumn complaints were made, throughout the parish and neighbourhood of Hadham, of the great difference in the proportional price of wheat at the markets, and of flour as sold at the mill, or in the shops. I was very sensible of the grounds for discontent, both in the sellers of wheat, and the purchasers of flour; and, as a remedy for the grievance, I determined to procure, from time to time, a sufficient quantity of good wheat from the market (having prevailed on a very respectable miller in the neighbourhood, to undertake to grind for me as much as I should require) by which means I might be able to supply the poor of the whole parish with good flour, and at a reasonable price. This has been done for these last three months, and is still in practice, giving very great satisfaction to the poor, who are the purchasers.

My first purchase was as follows:

	£.	s.	d.
110 bushels of wheat - -	30	4	0
Grinding, dressing, and bringing home	1	12	3
	<hr/>		
Total -	31	16	3
<hr/>			
PRODUCE.			
340 pecks and 3 lb. of flour, at 1s. 9d.			
per peck - -	30	2	5

SUPPLYING THE POOR WITH FLOUR. 35

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over	-	30	2 5
18 strikes of pollard, at 1s. 6d. per strike	1	7	0
2 quarters and four bushels of bran, at 8s.			
per quarter	-	-	1 0 0
			<hr/>
	£.	32	9 5
Prime cost		31	16 3
			<hr/>
Profit	-	0	13 2

This accommodation to the poor has been effected without any expence, except the advance of £ 40. and with very little trouble. At the parish workhouse there is a large vacant room, where the sacks of flour are deposited, as they come from the mill ; and, twice in the week, my servant attends two hours, with the master of the workhouse, in the flour chamber ; and the poor are, with great convenience, thus served with the best wheat flour, and with full measure.

The report which I have just received from my agent is, that he has sold during the fortnight about 40 sacks, at 1s. a bushel under the shop price ; the saving upon which, to the poor who are purchasers, amounts to £ 5. per week : he is not at present able to tell exactly what the profit or loss is ; but he believes it is not much either way. Wheat too has been rising almost every week for some time ; and probably he must raise his price one penny in the peck. His calculation, as to the load of wheat which he has just bought, is as follows :

	£.	s.	d.
Price of the load - - -	12	0	0
Grinding, ditto - - -	0	8	0
Carriage from the mill - -	0	3	9
	<hr/>		
	£.	12	11 9

PRODUCE.

124 pecks of flour, at 1s. 10d.	11	7	4
8 strikes of pollard, at 1s. 6d -	0	12	0
1 quarter of bran, at 8s. - -	0	8	0
	<hr/>		
	£.	12	7 4
Loss - - -	0	4	5
	<hr/>		
	£.	12	11 9

OBSERVATIONS.

By these means the poor are enabled to purchase their flour, with a saving of at least 4d. in every peck, exclusive of the benefit of having it of the best sort, and full measure;* which, at £ 5. per week (the gain on twenty sacks) amounts to £ 260. per ann.; being two-thirds of the whole poor's rate of the parish of Hadham. This plan gives such general satisfaction, that it will probably be soon adopted in the adjoining parishes: the poor of which have been, in some instances, supplied from

* In confirmation of Dr. Hamilton's observation, Mr. Burdon allows me to add, that in the south division of Basington ward in the county of Durham, a strict inspection of weights and scales having lately taken place by order of the magistrates, the deficiency discovered in the smaller shops, was such (as appears by the statement of the chief constable who made the examination) as had occasioned a loss to the poor of that district, tho small and by no means populous, amounting to not less than £ 500. a year. B.
1th May, 1798.

d.
o
o
9
—
9
4
o
o
—
4
5
—
9
ase
ery
the
per
60.
r's-
ch
on
of
om
fr.
as-
on
of
der
ief
d a
ns

my stock. It is also beneficial to the other classes of life, as well as to the poor : the miller, upon this flour being sold, at first reduced his price from 8s. 8d. a bushel, to 8s. 4d. ; and he has not raised it for the last two months, tho the price of wheat is considerably advanced during that period.

Every thing that can be done, to enable the poor to procure the necessaries of life, at a moderate rate, of full measure, and of good quality, is of the utmost importance. It has been the misfortune of this country, that, in every article of food, the profits of the speculator interfere between the growth and the consumption ; and, in some instances, increase the price to nearly double. If the farmer would supply his labourer with flour, potatoes, bacon, and cheese,* at prime cost, he would enable him to maintain his family much better, and at less expence, and thereby prevent the increase of the poor's-rate : he would attach him to his service,

* It would be a very desirable thing that the poor should be able to supply themselves with beer of their own brewing, without being obliged always to recur to the alehouse, I am aware of the disadvantage of brewing in small quantities ; but that might be compensated for by great advantages, and by the superior flavour of beer *brewed and drank at home*.—The following receipt is according to the proportions, used in the House of Industry, at Shrewsbury. To half a bushel of malt, add four pounds of treacle, and three quarters of a pound of hops ; this will make twenty-five gallons of beer ; the cost of which (supposing the value of the grains to be only equal to the expence of fuel) would be 2d. a gallon, where the materials were purchased to the best advantage ; and, when bought at the retail shop, about 3d. I have tried the receipt, and found the beer very good : it was fit for use in a fortnight ; but it is not calculated for keeping, particularly in warm weather. B.

27th March, 1798.

and put an end to the old complaint of the "*rambling unsettled disposition of the poor*:" he would also keep down the price of labour; which is necessarily increased on account of the disadvantageous situation, in which the labourer is placed as to the purchase of every necessary of life. In short, the farmer would do his labourer much good, and himself more.

13th March, 1798.

Charge to overseers of the Hundred of Stoke, in the county of Bucks. By THOMAS BERNARD, Esq.

BUCKS, HUNDRED OF STOKE.

To wit.

To
the parish of
Sir,

Overseer of the poor for
in the said county.

The office, to which you are this day appointed, is of no small importance; inasmuch as the welfare of a considerable part of our fellow-subjects depends upon the due execution of it. It is *your* duty, Sir, to be the GUARDIAN AND PROTECTOR OF THE POOR;—and, as such, to provide employment for those who *can* work, and relief and support for those who *cannot*; to place the *young*, in a way of obtaining an honest livelihood by their industry, and to enable the *aged* to close their labours and their life in peace and comfort.

In the execution of this office, it is your duty to consider how you may best *improve the situation of the poor* in your parish, so as to lessen the calls for

parochial relief, and thereby to diminish your parish rate.—In this respect; much may be done by *occasional* aid and encouragement to parishioners with large families; much, by means of regular employment for children, either at home or in schools of industry, so as to fit them to be placed out in service at an early age;—and much, by a judicious management of your poorhouse, if you have one, and by making a proper distinction and separation between the honest and industrious who are driven thither by age, infirmity, or misfortune, and the idle and profligate, whose loose and vicious habits of life have made them a burthen and a disgrace to their parish.

You are, Sir, within the space of 14 days, to receive the books of assessments and of Entering on Office. accounts from your predecessors, together with such money and materials, as shall be in their hands; and, if any balance is due to them, you are to pay it out of the first monies that come to your hands.

In conjunction with the churchwardens of your parish, you are, by a parish rate to Materials for work, &c. raise money, to purchase a sufficient stock of materials for setting the poor to work, and to supply competent sums for the relief of the lame, impotent, old, blind, and such among you as are poor and unable to work, and for putting out poor children apprentices.

In making the poor's-rate it is necessary that a majority of the churchwardens and Poor's-rate how made; overseers should concur; and it is your duty, to make an equal and impartial rate,

without favour or affection, upon "every occupier of lands, houses, tithes, mines, and saleable under-woods in your parish." When such rate is made, it is to be approved and signed by two justices, dwelling in or near your parish; and, on the Sunday after, to be published in your parish church.

In case the rates, so made, shall not be regularly paid, you may obtain a summons and how levied.

for the person making default to appear before two neighbouring justices; who may, by warrant, authorize such rates to be raised by distress in your parish; or, if sufficient goods of such person making default be not found in your parish, then, upon application to one justice, to be levied in any other county, or district, where the defaulter may have property.

With regard to the *poor's-rate*, we know that there are instances, in some parts of England, where it has been levied upon the *poor*: we mean, by the poor, those who have not the advantage of any profession, trade, property, or income, nor other means of support, except their daily labour; and who have only a cottage, a little garden, and a few articles of furniture, merely such as are necessary for them and their families; and we think it our duty to observe, that, to charge such poor persons to the rate at all, appears to us to be directly contrary to the authority, under which the rate is made; viz. the statute of Elizabeth, which was passed soon after the dissolution of the monasteries, and intitled "an Act for the *Relief* of the *Poor*;" "an Act, in which, if *cottages* had been intended to have been included,

they would have been expressly named, as well as *houses*; from which they were then considered as totally different, and distinguishable in point of law.

It is impossible to read that statute, without perceiving that it was never intended Why not in to compel the *poor*, who are frugal point of law. and industrious, to support those who are not so; but that there is, throughout, a distinction made between the class of men, not having income or property, who are to be *intituled* to relief under it, and those who, from the income of their property, profession, trade, or occupation, are to *contribute* to that relief:—that by the *poor* are intended the labouring cottagers; who, if out of employment, are, under that Act, to have work found them;—if lame, impotent, old, or blind, and unable to work, are to receive pecuniary or other relief;—who, if habitations are wanting, are to have them erected at the charge of the parish;—and whose children, if unemployed, are to be set to work, and, at a fit age, to be placed out apprentices in service, or to a trade.

But, whatever may be the opinion as to the *law*, there can be no doubt in point of *prudence*, that while the day labourer, who Why not in point of prudence. has children, is exerting himself to maintain his family without parochial aid, it is a dangerous experiment to attempt to make him contribute to the support of your other poor, with the probable, or even a possible, consequence of driving a large family on the parish.

There is, however, one class of labouring men, who have still a superior claim to exemption from parish rates;—the mem- Case of members of

Friendly So- bers of Friendly Societies, who are
cieties. acquiring for themselves, out of the
savings of their own industry, an eligible and ho-
nourable provision, independent of the poor laws.
As these societies, particularly *where they enjoy the
advantage of having their rules framed and confirmed
according to law*, have the effect of greatly reducing
the poor's-rate, it is required of you, as an act, not
merely of *justice*, but of *prudence*, not to *endeavour*,
in any case, to compel such labouring men, being
members of friendly societies established according
to law, to contribute to the support of *the other poor*
of their own parish.

In applying the rate for the relief of the poor,
Application of the rate in making per- we request that you will attend to the
manent im- *permanent improvement* of their condi-
provement; tion, rather than to the little expe-
by giving dient, or economy of the moment.—
seasonable re- If a poor man's family is visited by
lief. sickness or calamity, it is better for
your parish that he should receive a timely supply
of medical and other necessary assistance at home,
and be re-established in the power of maintaining
himself and his family by his labour, than that they
should be neglected, until it becomes necessary to
move them into the poorhouse, where they may
probably remain, a burthen to the parish, for many
years:—If the poor of your parish
and by find- want employment, there is more eco-
ing the poor nomy in supplying them with instruc-
employment; tion, encouragement, spinning-wheels, wool, and
other means of earning a livelihood, than in leaving
them to be oppressed by poverty, and by that lan-

guid and desponding indolence, which is often rather the misfortune than the vice of the poor; with the consequence of being obliged to maintain the family afterwards, at ten times the expence, that would have been incurred at first, by a timely supply of relief to themselves. Upon this head, we have one earnest request to make; that whatever is made by their labour, they may have the *whole produce* of it, without any deduction, on any pretence whatever.

they having
the whole of
their earn-
ings.

—The earnings of the poor should be *sacred and inviolate*, in order to encourage them to work, and to exempt the character of their employers from the imputation of interested motives.

Upon the authority of the case of the *King and North Shields* (20 Geo. III.) we have, where parents have applied for support for their infant children under seven years of age, ordered them re-

Of giving
relief for
children at
home.

lief at home, without removing the parents or children into the parish workhouse; adopting the humane and judicious sentiments, which Mr. Justice Buller delivered on that occasion:—that it would be injurious to parishes, if, “when *one* of a numerous “family wants relief, the *whole* must go to the “parish workhouse;” and that it would be very unjust “that the parish should be entitled to the “labour of a *whole* family, because *one* of them “might want relief.”—Any difficulties, however, that did exist on this subject, have been removed by the act (36 Geo. III. cap. 23.) which enables magistrates to make special orders for the relief of industrious poor persons *at home*.

It is your duty, Sir, to see that there are proper habitations for the poor of your parish; and if, by the decay of cottages, or by the increase of population, more habitations are wanted for them, you are, with the leave of the lord of the manor, to erect cottages for them at the parish expence, on the waste or common, within your parish.

After every thing has been done for the encouragement and protection of the deserving poor, there remains another class, which it will be necessary to reform by punishment; I mean those drones of society, *idle* and *disorderly* persons, whom the law has described as *vagrants*, *rogues*, and *vagabonds*. It is due to the honest exertions of the industrious cottager, that, while he receives aid and encouragement, they should not escape correction; that every distinction should be made between him and those, who wander about, endeavouring to subsist, without labour, on the industry of others; of whom many have deserted their families, and almost all have quitted the place, or situation, where their services might have been useful, and where they ought to have been employed.—In bringing these to punishment, with a view to amendment, it will be prudent for you to apply for directions to this bench, where you have found regular attendance and assistance from the magistrates for the space of nine years; and it will be merciful so to select the objects, as that the punishment of few may have its effect in the reform of many.

As in your conduct towards the poor out of the

workhouse, so, in respect of those within its walls, there should be a *marked distinction* between the *industrious* and the *idle*, and between the *orderly* and the *profligate*. There is nothing in the internal regulation of this country, more subversive of its credit, or more inimical to its prosperity, than the uniform and unvaried treatment, which the best and the worst of our fellow-subjects receive in a parish workhouse. In that place, it is of the utmost importance, not merely to the poor persons who are driven thither by the tempest of fortune, but to the very well being of the country itself, that there should be a decisive boundary—a line of separation—drawn between the *industrious* and *honest* poor, who are suffering under a calamity from which neither you nor we can presume to be exempt, and those *vicious* and *abandoned* characters, which are the pests of society, and the objects of punishment.

Of the treatment of the poor in the workhouse.

In administering relief, we inquire into the industry and character of the person who applies. We have found no small benefit in adhering strictly to this rule; and we confidently recommend to you, as an encouragement to the energy and good habits of the poor, not to give to the idle and the vicious the same encouragement, as is due to the honest and industrious labourer, suffering under sickness or misfortune. If it appears that the person, who applies, has exerted himself *honourably* and *diligently* in his situation, it is your

The honest and industrious to be relieved kindly and liberally.

duty, Sir, and it is the *interest* of your parish, that he be relieved *kindly* and *liberally*.

There is an Act of Parliament, which enables
As to farm- you, *if you are so disposed*, to farm
ing the poor. your workhouse.—It is possible, that
a *farmed* workhouse, confided to a deserving person, *like absolute power in the best and most virtuous hands*, may be the instrument of good ; but there is no instance whatever, in which the *duty* and *interest* of the person *intrusted* are so completely in opposition to each other, as in that of the farmer of a parish workhouse. For, while his duty should direct him to improve the state of the workhouse, it is his interest to keep it in such a condition, as to deter any competitor from offering for it, at the end of the year. The necessary consequence of this is the increase of parochial expences : and we find, from the different returns throughout the kingdom, that, where workhouses have been farmed, tho there was some saving at first, yet in a few years the expences have thereby been greatly increased, and the poor's-rate accumulated to an alarming amount. Where, indeed, a principal land owner, or land occupier, of a parish can be induced to contract for the parish workhouse, *he has an interest in the permanent improvements of its condition*, and in the diminution of the distresses of the poor ; but where a *vagrant speculating contractor* visits your parish, with a view of making his *incidental* profit by farming your workhouse, we trust you will consider the Christian principle of **DOING AS YOU WOULD BE DONE BY** : and

that you will not confide the poor, whose GUARDIAN AND PROTECTOR it is your duty to be, to one, into whose hands you would not trust an acre of your land, or any portion of your own property.

With regard to your workhouse, we have another observation to make, and that re- As to parish respects your parish children.—As you children. regard your own interest and their welfare, we entreat you to educate them *out* of the workhouse. You can do it with as little, and even less, expence to the parish; with much less annoyance to the old people in the workhouse, who are too often the sport of those little, unthinking, and uneducated creatures;—and with much more benefit to the children, who get earlier and more advantageous situations in service, and succeed better in life, proceeding from a parochial school or cottage, than from a workhouse.

With regard to the removal of labourers belonging to other parishes, consider thoroughly what you may lose, and what the individual may suffer, by the removal, before you apply to us on the subject. Where you have had, for a long time, the benefit of their labour, and where all they want is a little *temporary* relief, reflect whether, after so many years spent in your service, this is the *moment* and the *cause*, for removing them from the scene of their daily labour to a distant parish. There are cases, in which removals from one parish to another are proper and justifiable; but, in every instance, before you apply for an order of removal,

As to removing labourers who become chargeable.

consider whether it is *prudent*; and, if prudent, whether it is *just*.

Within four days after the appointment of your successors, you are to produce your Of their quitting their office. accounts before two of the neighbouring justices for examination; and, within fourteen days after such appointment, you are to deliver your books, materials for work, and balance of cash, to the persons appointed to succeed you.—If you shall have executed your office duly and conscientiously, you will then quit it, with the blessings of the poor, the esteem and respect of the other classes of society, and with the approbation of your own conscience.

23d April, 1798.

CHAIRMAN.